RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

May, 1993

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

THE NEW CHAIR

Satisfaction of action. That can neatly summarize our last meeting. RNA heard from eight candidates running for office from mayoral to ward to at-large councilpersons. At times, it even got boisterous. Some of the topics that hit home (no pun intended) were taxes and crime. There were numerous plans and proposals by the candidates on said subjects. As it stands now, we actually got a decrease in real estate taxes, but how long before they take their normal route of going up? That's what you as a voter can do to make sure the politicians hear you - GET INVOLVED! Dont't let your chance go by - VOTE! If enough people voice dissatisfaction, they'll listen. Remember the satisfaction you get when the results are in and your candidate has won. [volunteer for our flea market] Well, call him or her and remind them of their promises - so they won't get swept under the rug.

This is my first article as chairperson. And my first action as chairperson will be to donate my campaign contributions to the RNA Treasury becasue I have no idea how to spend all that money that my campaign volunteers [fleamarket] collected during that long, ardous and gut-wrenching campaign. JUST KIDDING! I'm happy to be chairperson for the next ten years. AGAIN, JUST KIDDING! But in all honesty, it makes me smile and I hope to live up to my precedessor's benchmarks of devotion to our neighborhood and City.

There are some problems that seem to never go away: drugs, dirt on the streets, grafitti, vandalism, lack of City services, traffic, crime and policiticans. So stick by and watch to see if we, as a cohesive organization, can work to make the Heights a great place to live and raise our children.

I promise not to mention that "v" word again [volunteer], [volunteer], [volunteer] - so, I lied. But June 12th is around the corner and the Flea Market will arrive sooner than you think. So this year to make a fun time for all involved, we will hire 15 workers to run the food table, clean the Park, set up in the morning, and control traffic. LYING AGAIN! But let's not forget about all those VOLUNTEERS that gave up 2, 4, 6, or 8 hours so that RNA can publish this newsletter to inform all our members about the going-ons in our neighborhood. If you need further convincing, ask someone who's done it and see if they don't smile when they give you their answer.

See you at our next meeting on May 11th. And don't forget to vote in the municipal election before arriving.

Ernest Quintero, Chair

MEETING MINUTES

At the April 13th meeting of RNA, several candidates for the upcoming municipal election discussed their platforms with the members. The following is a brief profile of each person, in the order in which they appeared:

L. Harvey Smith (council-at-large) is a crisis intervention teacher, drug counselor, academic advisor and lifelong citizen of Jersey City. As a member of Bret Schundler's ticket, he advocated the proposed Special Purpose Corporation (SPC) and additional community based police patroling. He addressed the need for recreation and tutoring programs for the City's youth as well as the need for programs for our senior citizens. And while he did recognize the degeneration of the City as a whole, he also said "the blight factor in the Heights is not as bad as it it elsewhere." His bottom line was to stop the downward trend and save Jersey City.

Bill Gaughan (Ward D) has been involved with Heights issues for over 30 years. He is also a member of the Schundler team. He emphasized Central Avenue and the two pieces of legislation that will help revitlalize it: (1) the Special Improvement District and (2) the Urban Enterprise Zone. He discussed the importance of lower taxes via the proposed SPC. He also promised to look into the issue of the reopening Mountain Road. His goal was to follow in Tom Hart's footprints and create a rennaissance in the Heights.

Nancy Gaynor (Ward C) has been a teacher for twenty years. Her primary objectives are to get tough with the lawbreakers and troublemakers and get juvenile offenders to do community service. Although she was sympathetic to the plight of the neighborhood, she seemed unfamiliar with the recent battles the community has had with Christ Hospital

(continued on page three)

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING: TUESDAY, May 11th
AT 7:15 PM
AT THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

DISCUSSION WILL INCLUDE THE :
1) THE UPCOMING FLEA MARKET
2) SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY
3) RNA TEE-SHIRTS

THE RNA NINTH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

RNA has decided to hold its Ninth Annual Flea Market in the spring this year, due to the on-going renovations in Riverview Park. The organizing committee has promised that this Flea Market is going to be the best ever! It is scheduled for **Saturday, June 12th at Riverview-Fiske Park from 9 am to 4 pm.** Our raindate is Saturday, June 19th.

Anyone who has been to our past flea markets can tell you its a time to browse and shop, and perhaps sell some of the unwanted items you have around your home. But most of all, the flea market is a chance for all of us as neighbors to be together and enjoy our neighborhood park.

As always, RNA will have a table at the flea market. You can help by donating anything you have around the house that you no longer need or want. (No spouses or significant others accepted!) Lamps, picture frames, dishes, knick-knacks, anything! Just take a look around and see if you've got anything to spare. We only ask the items be in good condition. You can bring the items to the park the morning of the flea market. The money we raise goes into the RNA treasury to fund projects and newsletter costs.

This year RNA has decided to provide **SPACE ONLY** for the merchants and sellers. If you are a RNA member you can reserve a space for $10.00. Non-members can reserve space for $15.00. (See attached application.)

Other perennial favorites will be at this year's flea market- hot dogs, baked goods, meatball sandwiches, coffee tea, and soda! You can have your children fingerprinted for free, or let them play with Roll-off and McGruff. You can even take a chance on a 50/50 raffle.

We'll have something for everyone, so come join us in Riverview-Fiske Park JUNE 12th!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

It takes a lot of work to organize and run the FLEA MARKET. You can help:

--CLEAN-UP THE PARK BEFORE & AFTER EVENT
--PICK-UP, SET-UP, BREAK-DOWN, AND RETURN THE TABLES
--WORK AT THE RNA TABLE
--SELL HOT DOGS, BEVERAGES, AND BAKED GOODS
--PUBLICIZE THE FLEA MARKET

CALL ERNEST QUINTERO AT
963-5608

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
NINTH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET
REGISTRATION FORM

DATE: SATURDAY,JUNE 12TH
TIME: 9 AM TO 4PM

LOCATION:
RIVERVIEW-FISKE PARK

(RAINDATE JUNE 19TH)

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

Phone No.:_____

PRICES FOR SPACE ONLY:

1) RNA MEMBERS: **$10.00**
2) NON-MEMBERS: **$15.00**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CALL 963-5608

By participating as a seller in the RNA Flea Market, I agree not to sell any food items, pornographic or obscene material or drug paraphernalia. If I violate this agreement, I will forfeit my right to participate and leave the flea market.

Signature :_____

Make checks payable to RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION.
Cut out this application and send to **Ernest Quintero, 187 Ogden Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07307**
Attn: Flea Market

Meeting Minutes (continued from page one)

over their new parking lot built on the Palisades and their expansion policy in the Heights in general.

Tom DeGise (council-at-large) discussed the advances made since Mayor Schundler was elected. He stated that the issues are the same all over the City (including the Heights), and his goals are to: stabilize taxes, get more cops on the streets, create more jobs and improve the general fiscal situation. When another member raised the issue of Christ Hospital having the local zoning ordinances changed for them to 'legally' expand into the residential neighborhood, Tom acknowledged the importance of putting the proper people on the Board of Adjustment in order to avoid this problem.

Louis DeStefano (Ward D) is running as an independent candidate in Ward D. He is against Hudson County building an incinerator which would just execerbate an already overwhelming pollution problem in our area. He is in favor of attrition layoffs and does not believe in hiring people just to fill budget spots. He stressed the importance of using city agencies, such as Public Works for City jobs instead of hiring outside contractors. He was very pessimistic about the City opening Mountain Road because of a lack of funds for infrastructure repairs. DeStefano assured everyone that despite his status as an independent, he would work with all the elected officials as long as they're above board and honest.

Jacqueline Shamberg (Ward D) is a college psychology professor. She was lured into politics because of her concern with the situation in the Heights, where she has lived all her life. A member of the Manzo ticket, she advocates more better trained police on the streets. She also stresses the importance of input from the community to help her do her job. She invited people to call her with any questions. Her motto was Visibility and Accessibility. Although she is the wife of the North District police captain, she did not think there would be any conflict of interest or partisan feelings in her voting decisions.

Louis Manzo is one of three candidates running for Mayor of Jersey City. Although all three candidates were invited, he was the only one to come to our meeting and speak to the members. He believes in trimming government by cutting spending. He recognizes the problem with property owners abandoning their responsibilities and not paying their taxes. However, he is against the SPC because in the long run, he believes that it will get the City into deeper financial trouble. He presented an alternative plan whereby troubled homeowners would be granted low interest loans from the Hudson County Affordable Housing Trust Fund. These loans would must be used to pay off the owner's current outstanding taxes. He also favors the issuance of mini-bonds to the residents of Jersey City that would enable current taxpayers to receive up to a $300. rebate on their tax bill.

On the issue of crime, Manzo stresses the need for more community based policing, scooter patrols and assigned call zones for cops whereby they could interact with citizens and get direct feedback. He wants to establish a curfew and develop a youth conservation corp which would encompass education, recreation and job training. He is also in favor of developing a recycling plant in Jersey City.

Anthony Cucci (council-at-large) as a former mayor of Jersey City , he feels he is uniquely qualified to help solve the City's problems. As a member of Manzo's ticket, he reiterated much of the above program. In particular, he addressed the issues of taxation and affordable housing.

As stated before, an invitation was extended to each of the mayoral candidates and their local ward candidates to participate in this forum. Although their members accepted the invitation, no one from the Waddleton team showed up at the meeting.

We didn't have the opportunity to get to the usual RNA business because of the time taken with this candidate forum. Hope to see everyone at our next meeting on May 11th in the Harbor View Health Care Center to discuss the upcoming flea market.

Suzanne Maroon, Secretary

CONRAD'S CORNER

Jersey City with just about the largest senior citizen population in the United States also has the highest taxes of any city in the country. If that's the case, the only logical way to reduce taxes would be to reduce the number of people working in the City, which now numbers some three thousand. Many jobs just have to be eliminated, it's that simple, But Mayor Schundler has hired forty more instead and this while many senior citizens are paying more than the hundred percent valuation of their property, tenants have a rent ceiling and all the rich out of town developers only pay thirty percent (which they even withhold when they go to court to get another reduction in their taxes). All of which raises the taxes of the remaining homeowners who are mostly senior citizens. Since we have the largest senior citizen population in the United States, does this mean that all the senior citizens we have will be taxed out of existence in a few short years?

It's just about annihilation for anyone owning a historic site. Is that why we no longer have historic preservation in Jersey City except for the three victorian downtown historic districts and Dickinson High School. All the others which are much older will just be eliminated and they are the oldest in the state. Since most of our part time council members are school teachers, how could they let this happen? No wonder we have some four year high school students who can't read or write.

April 12, 1993

A Beautiful Easter Service

I thought of all my friends in the RNA when I attended a beautiful Easter Vigil Mass and how nice it would be to tell everyone about it. A friend invited me to this church in Port Newark, located near Newark Airport. Unfortunately, there was a terrible fire in Kearny that Saturday and it was an on-again, off-again routine as all the roads were closed in that area. Eventually we were notified that the roads were reopened and the mass would take place.

The parish is known as Stella Maris and Father Charles McTage is the parish priest. Years ago, Father McTage had a small chapel in the Seamen's Home for the sailors as their ships put into port and he was always

available to help them. Now he has his own church. Father McTage lives on the premises and he has all the facilities for keeping house. As one can see, this parish is built with loving hands.

Those who are able, bring some type of food. The food is accepted as soon as you enter the chapel and it is then placed on a large table in a room behind the altar. The table is set banquet style. After mass, everyone is invited to partake of all the goodies. Our donations were colored eggs and a babka. I noticed some of the congregation brought rice and beans and chicken.

The chapel holds about 150 people . The altar was decorated with beautiful plants. A young girl played a small organ in the back of the room. All the churches are decorated for Easter but this chapel was so quaint that I could not believe we were only twenty minutes from home. I felt that I was on one of the Carribean islands, or maybe Mexico or a small town in Italy. There were a few older people attending this mass but most of the parishioners were small families from the area. Like all children nowadays, the little ones were dressed with new sneakers.

Father McTage has been written up in the Jersey Journal (he speaks many languages) but it was something else to attend this mass.

Frances Santoro

MAY

The month all flowers are in bloom.
May is the month we celebrate Mother's Day and Memorial Day . . . Summer is on the way!
My birthday is May 11th,
Time is getting close to our annual Flea Market.
"HAPPY MOM'D DAY TO ALL!"

Madeline Tuzzo Rea

REMEMBERING

Showcase full of 1¢ candy.
The 5¢ ferry ride to Staten Island.
Trestle from Hoboken to Jersey City.
Free dishes on Monday nights at the movies.
Meyers soft ice cream.
Roasting potatoes on the fire outdoors.
The Election Day fires.
Grafitti free buildings.
The 100 steps.
The fast food Automats.
Clothes drying on the line outside.
Playing kick the can, Johnny on the Pony, Hide and Seek.
Cops walking the streets.
North Street pool.
Ice being delivered to homes.
Peddlers with horses selling their wares.
Dressing up for Mass on Sundays.
Journal Square on Saturday nights.

Jack Rea

REDUCED TAXI FARE FOR SENIORS AND DISABLED

If you are a senior citizen (62 years of age or older) or are disabled, you can save one half of the regular one-way fare in a taxicab ride. Personal Guides for the disabled can ride free when the proper identification is presented. This half-fare is only available from Jersey City based taxi owners or drivers within the boundaries of Jersey City. A valid I.D. card must be presented to the driver each time you ride. For information or instructions you may contact the OFFICE OF ADVOCACY FOR THE HANDICAPPED at 547-6875.

RECYCLE YOUR GARBAGE AND DISPOSALS - IT'S THE LAW!

1993 MEMBERSHIP DUES

It's not to late to pay your annual RNA membership dues of $5.00 per person. Membership entitles you to full participation and voting rights in RNA. You will also receive the nine issues of our newsletter.

Bring your dues in person to the next meeting, or mail a check, made out to Riverview Neighborhood Association, to RNA, 232 Ogden Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey, 07307.

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

RNA is soliciting material for our newsletter. We are interested in anything you as our readers are interested in. Would you like to thank someone? Maybe you would like to complain about something. How about suggestions to help improve our neighborhood or City?

There's always a recipe, whether it is a family heirloom or something you just found out about. Creative writing is always wanted - whether it is a poem, a short story or a memory about a local event or person.

Drop off your contributions in the mailbox, attached to the gate, at 232 Ogden Avenue. Mark the envelope, "RNA NEWSLETTERS."

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to announce the official expansion of the northern boundaries of the Riverview Neighborhood Association from Bowers Street to Congress Street on both Palisade and Ogden Avenues. (Riverview Neighborhood Association will now represent residents living on Palisade and Ogden Avenues from Congress Street to Cuneo Place.)

Adopted: December 12, 1992

SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT RNA MEETING ON TUESDAY, May 11TH AT 7:15 PM.

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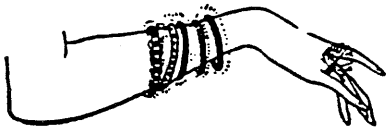

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FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

COME TO OUR NEXT RNA MEETING ON
TUESDAY, MAY 11TH at 7:15 PM

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FLEA MARKET

NEWSLETTER

IT'S TIME TO TAKE A STAND AND VOTE FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD'S FUTURE

The municipal election in May could be a turning point for our neighborhood and our City. For the past four years, our community has been wrecked by official neglect, lack of services and a deteriorating crime and drug problem. Our council representatives were either ignorant of the problems or refused to work with our neighborhood to solve them.

RNA, consistant with its postion to remain unaffiliated with any political party, organization or elected official, does not endorse any of the candidates in this election. However, RNA does strongly urges its members, neighbors and friends to look carefully at the mayoral and the council candidates (for our community that includes, council-at-large, Ward C, and Ward D) and vote for the most qualified and best informed person running in each race.